



Seasonal Tree Trimming

When to trim your trees so that the birds are not harmed

Wait before you trim that tree

Did you know tree trimming in spring and early summer is irresponsible and possibly illegal? This can damage trees and devastate nesting birds.

Keep trees healthy

Cutting, trimming and pruning during spring and early summer can lead to diseased trees and intrusion of pests that harm trees. Fall is the best time to trim branches when trees are dormant.

Keep nesting birds safe!

Hawk nests are large and visible, but the majority of songbird nests are small and camouflaged. Tree trimmers may not see nests until too late. Also, loud activity of tree trimming can disturb birds in surrounding trees.

What does the law say?

Birds and active nests are protected from harm or harassment by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The California Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will issue citations and levy fines to individuals and companies that blatantly disregard the regulations.

Actions to help trees & birds:

- Trim and prune during the fall and winter when trees are dormant.
- Hire arborists, landscapers and tree trimmers who are concerned with the health of your trees and the birds that nest in them.
- Avoid contracting services that only trim trees because they have to work year-round.
- If you see tree trimmers disturbing an active nest, TAKE A PICTURE of the nest, the destruction, and the company's name. Report violations to the Law Enforcement Office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services at (619) 557-5063.